REMARKS

The present application was filed on July 3, 2001 with claims 1-25. Claims 1, 12, 23, 24 and 25 are independent. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14-19 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,342,901 to Adler et al. (hereinafter "Adler"); and (ii) rejected claims 2, 9, 13, 20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler.

While Applicants believe that the claims as originally filed are patentably distinguishable over Adler, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12, 23, 24 and 25 in a sincere effort to expedite the present application through to issuance. More particularly, Applicants have added the language wherein the at least one regularly identifiable expression ("regular expression" in claim 25) represents a pattern that is matchable in accordance with a programming language that supports such a regularly identifiable expression. Support for this amendment may be found throughout the present specification, for example, see page 4, line 23, through page 5, line 6.

An example of such a pattern is provided on page 5, lines 20-23, of the present specification: "[f]or example, a set of personal names such as those found in a phone book may be identified as a 'person-name' class. Subsequently, patterns of the form 'Hi, it's <person-name>+' can be matched, and the words matching the "person-name" tokens can be displayed as the caller."

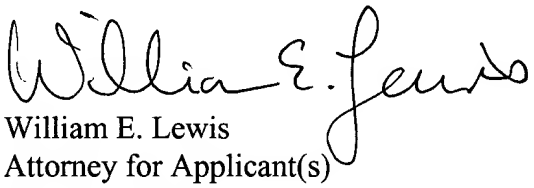
The Office Action contends that the "cue words" in Adler are the same as the regularly identifiable expressions of the claimed invention. However, this is not accurate. As the claimed invention now expressly recites, a regularly identifiable expression represents a pattern that is matchable in accordance with a programming language that supports such a regularly identifiable expression. The "cue words" of Adler are merely discrete words that are part of a limited vocabulary that are recognizable by a voice recognition system (column 16, lines 5-20, of Adler), and thus do not represent patterns that are matchable in accordance with a programming language that supports such patterns, as in the claimed invention. Advantageously, such patterns of the claimed invention may encompass more than a limited vocabulary of cue words associated with a voice recognition system.

The discrete cue word recognition used by Adler is effectively similar to the conventional word tagging approach discussed in the background section of the present specification, e.g., page 1, line 18, through page 2, line 3. That is, since Adler employs discrete cue words recognizable by a voice recognition system, Adler does not teach or suggest that the cue words can be stored in one of several common programming languages, e.g., as a "flex," "lex" or "perl" program, as is possible in accordance with the claimed invention. Such programming languages have built-in support for regular expressions. Secondly, since Adler employs discrete cue words recognizable by a voice recognition system, Adler does not teach or suggest pattern matching and information extraction using highly optimized standard programs, as is possible in accordance with the claimed invention. Thirdly, since Adler employs discrete cue words recognizable by a voice recognition system, Adler does not teach or suggest that the cue words can be identified without the expensive and time consuming step of gathering and annotating a "training" database, as is possible in accordance with the claimed invention. It is known that voice recognition systems, such as those used by Adler to recognize cue words, must typically be trained using some appropriate training corpus. Thus, since Adler employs discrete cue words recognizable by a voice recognition system, Adler teaches away from the principles of the claimed invention.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1, 12, 23, 24 and 25 are patentable over Adler. Further, it is respectfully asserted that dependent claims 2-11 and 13-22 are patentable over Adler not only due to their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 12, but also because such claims recite patentable subject matter in their own right. By way of example only, claims 9 and 20 recite that the regularly identifiable expression identifying operation is performed in accordance with one or more programs written in one of the flex, lex, and perl programming language. Despite the contention to the contrary in the Office Action, Adler does not teach or suggest this feature since Adler employs a voice recognition system.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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